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| 1632_EDP_Logo_Landscape-Final_Office.jpg | Wall Talk |

Wall Talk is a silent way to do reflection, generate ideas, check on learning, develop projects orsolve problems. It can be used productively with any group—students, PLTs, workshop participants,committees. Because is it done completely in silence, it gives groups a change of pace and encouragesthoughtful contemplation.

**Format**

**Time**: Maximum: 15 mins. (Time can vary according to need. It can be from 5 to 15 mins.)

**Materials**: Vertical surface and several coloured textas per group.

**Group Size:** Maximum of 6

**Process**

1. The facilitator explains VERY BRIEFLY that Wall talk is a silent activity. Anyone may add to the Wall Talk as they please. You can comment on other people’s ideas simply by drawing a connecting line to the comment.
2. Each group has a relevant question on their vertical surface.
3. People write as they feel moved. There are likely to be long silences—that is natural, so allow plenty of wait time before deciding it is over.
4. How the facilitator chooses to interact with the Wall Talk influences its outcome. The facilitator can stand back and let it unfold or expand thinking by:

* circling other interesting ideas, thereby inviting comments to broaden
* writing questions about a participant comment
* adding his/her own reflections or ideas
* connecting two interesting ideas/comments together with a line and adding a question mark.

Actively interacting invites participants to do the same kinds of expansions. A Wall Talk can be an uncomplicated silent reflection or a spirited, but silent, exchange of ideas. It has been known to solve vexing problems, surprise everyone with how much is collectively known about something, get an entire project planned, or give a committee everything it needs to know without any verbal sparring.

**6. Verbal debrief:** How valuable was this process for generating personal and collective knowledge? How could the process be improved? (5 mins)

Originally developed by Hilton Smith, Foxfire Fund; adapted for the NSRF by Marylyn Wentworth*.* Retrieved from <http://www.nsrfharmony.org/protocol/doc/chalk_talk.pdf> accessed 29.03.10